

Appl. No. : 09/659,999
Filed : September 12, 2000

said first side housing and second side housing being engaged to form a single housing in which said fuse can be attached.

7. (Amended) A method for producing a fuse connection box provided with a fuse and a housing for attaching the fuse, comprising the steps of:

installing a first side terminal into a first side housing such that said first side terminal is substantially enclosed within said first side housing, said first side housing having an engagement portion,

installing a second side terminal into a second side housing such that said second side terminal is substantially enclosed within said second side housing, said second side housing having an engagement portion,

after said installing steps, engaging the engagement portions of said first side housing and second side housing to join them, and

attaching a fuse to the joined housing.

REMARKS

With this amendment, Claims 1 and 7 are amended. Claims 1-7 are thus presented for further Examination.

The specific changes to the specification and the amended claims are shown on a separate set of pages attached hereto and entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, which follows the signature page of this Amendment. On this set of pages, the insertions are underlined while the ~~deletions are stricken through~~.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,391,485 to Urani in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,447,452 to Takano. The Examiner has further rejected Claims 1-2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,391,485 to Urani in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,447,452 to Takano.

Claims 1 and 7 has been amended to include that the "first side wire is substantially enclosed within said first side housing" and the "second side wire is substantially enclosed within said second side housing".

These amendments clearly state that the terminals are substantially enclosed before the two halves of the fuse holder are joined.

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As previously described in the Amendment dated September 14, 2001, Urani discloses that "each casing half 14 further includes a cutout 68 formed along the top thereof to allow for easy visual inspection of the condition of fuse 16, recesses 66 and 67 which permit the passage of wires 18 from the inside to the outside of an assembled casing 12, and recesses 28 and 30 for receipt of clip assemblies 38 when casing halves are assembled into a complete casing 12." Thus, the protective bags that are used to cover the terminals prior to assembly into the housing as described in the specification of the present application are still required because terminal installation into the housing is not completed until the entire fuse housing is assembled. The Urani device thus suffers from the same problems as are discussed in the specification with regard to the prior art fuse holders.

Similarly, Takano discloses an apparatus wherein "after first joining the pair of insulating frames 1 as shown in FIG. 2 from the state of being separated into three units as shown in FIG. 1, the joined insulating frames 1 are pushed onto while making contact with closed bottom cylinder 11 by aligning their protruding walls 5. Whereupon, the end surfaces of resilient locking tabs 10 resiliently engage with locking flanges 4 by entering with a clicking action as shown in FIG. 3 the inside surfaces thereof while being deflected to the outside in opposition to their resiliency by the pushing stress of locking flange tapered surfaces 4a of insulating frames 1 applied to their inside tapered surfaces." Accordingly, Takano does not teach that the housing halves are PRE-assembled to substantially enclose the terminals. Rather, Takano requires frames 1 to be joined with cylinder 11 to form a housing that encloses the terminals. Accordingly, the protective bags that are used to cover the terminals prior to assembly as described in the present application are still required because terminal installation into the single housing still leaves the terminals exposed. Therefore, the Takano device also suffers from the same problems as are discussed in the specification with regard to the prior art fuse holders.

The terminals as described in the prior art are not retained in the housing halves prior to assembly of the pre-assembled housing halves, such that the terminals are enclosed within the single housing upon assembly. Therefore, neither Urani, Takano, nor Call teach or suggest pre-assembling the side terminals of each housing before assembling the housing halves into the completed fuse holder and enclosing the fuses within the single housing.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 7 are in condition for allowance. It is also respectfully submitted that Claims 2-6, being depending on Claim 1, are also in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

The applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims pursuant to statutory sections 102, 103 and/or 112, the reasons therefor, and arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claim set are presented above. In light of these amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are not made for patentability purposes, do not narrow the claims, and it is believed that the claims would satisfy the statutory requirements for patentability without the entry of such amendments. Rather, these amendments have only been made to increase claim readability, to improve grammar, and to reduce the time and effort required of those in the art to clearly understand the scope of the claim language. Furthermore, any new claims presented above are of course intended to avoid the prior art, but are not intended as replacements or substitutes of any cancelled claims. They are simply additional specific statements of inventive concepts described in the application as originally filed.

If the Examiner has any questions which may be answered by telephone, he is invited to call the undersigned directly.

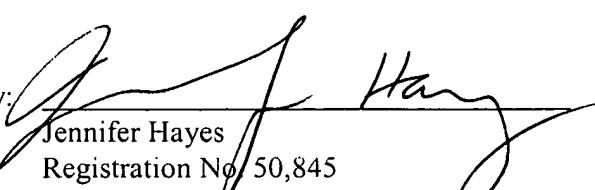
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: September 17, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A fuse connection box comprising a fuse and a housing for attaching the fuse:

said housing comprising a first side housing in which a first side terminal of an end of a first side wire is pre-assembled, such that said first side wire is substantially enclosed within said first side housing, and a second side housing in which a second side terminal of an end of a second side wire is separately pre-assembled, such that said second side wire is substantially enclosed within said second side housing;

said first side housing and second side housing having portions for engagement with each other, and

said first side housing and second side housing being engaged to form a single housing in which said fuse can be attached.

7. (Amended) A method for producing a fuse connection box provided with a fuse and a housing for attaching the fuse, comprising the steps of:

installing a first side terminal into a first side housing, such that said first side terminal is substantially enclosed within said first side housing, said first side housing having an engagement portion,

installing a second side terminal into a second side housing, such that said second side terminal is substantially enclosed within said second side housing, said second side housing having an engagement portion,

after said installing steps, engaging the engagement portions of said first side housing and second side housing to join them, and

attaching a fuse to the joined housing.

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